

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

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P R 121135Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8297

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 2825

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: MASS PFOR GR US TU

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO PRES FORD'S AID
DISCUSSION

1. SUMMARY: ALL ATHENS DAILIES APRIL 12 HEADLINED
PRES FORD'S PROPOSAL TO CONGRESS THAT MILITARY AID BE
RESUMED TO TURKEY ALONG WITH ECONOMIC AND MILITARY AID PROGRAM
TO GREECE. REGARDLESS OF EDITORIAL POLICY, ALL PAPERS
REGISTERED CRITICAL RESERVE TOWARD AID THEME AND IMPUTED
PRO-TURKISH MOTIVES TO PRES FORD'S PROGRAM. END SUMMARY.

2. CONSERVATIVE AND PRESTIGIOUS KATHIMERINI SUMMED UP
CRITICAL ATHENIAN PRESS REACTION TO PRES FORD'S AID
PROPOSAL WITH HEADLINE: "PROPOSAL OF FORD FOR AID TO GREECE
IS DECEIVING MANEUVER." MODERATE TO VIMA HEADLINED: "AID
TO GREECE, A COVER OF MR FORD FOR ARMS TO TURKEY."
CONSERVATIVE ACROPOLIS WAS ONLY PAPER TO USE FAIRLY NEUTRAL
LEAD: "THROUGH QUICK SOLUTION OF CYPRUS, WAR MUST BE
AVOIDED," BUT NEWS AND EDITORIAL TREATMENT WERE CRITICAL.
ACROPOLIS SUB-HEADLINE NOTED THAT PRES FORD
EMPHASIZED INTERNAL REACTION IN EITHER COUNTRY COULD GET
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OUT OF CONTROL IF CYPRUS SOLUTION NOT FOUND. AMONG LEFTIST

DAILIES, RIZOSPASTIS PROCLAIMED: "THE DOGMA OF FORD PROMOTES
IMPERIALISTIC PLANS OF AMERICANS," AND AVGHI:
"INADMISSABLE BAIT OF MR FORD."

3. ON INSIDE PAGES, PRESS REPORTED ALL LEADING ITEMS OF
PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AND EMPHASIZED THAT CONGRESSIONAL RESPONSE
OVERALL RANGED FROM HOSTILE TO INDIFFERENT, CITING CRITICAL
COMMENTS BY MANSFIELD AND BAYH.

4. KATHIMERINI EDITORIAL, "THEIR AIMS AND OURSELVES,"
ARGUED THAT TURKEY COULD NOT FOLLOW TIS PRESENT ADVENTUROUS
POLICY WITHOUT IMPLICIT SUPPORT FROM WASHINGTON, AND THAT
ONLY ACTIVE PRESSURE UPON TURKEY BY THE US, NOT PRIZES,
COULD CORRECT THE DANGEROUS POSITION OF SOUTHEASTERN FLANK
OF NATO. TO VIMA COMMENTARY ASKED IF FORD'S DISCUSSION
OF AID TO GREECE PROMPTED BY REQUEST OF GOG FOR RESUMPTION
OF AID. "IF SO, THIS WAS A GREAT ERROR BECAUSE WE HAVE
REPEATEDLY EXPERIENCED THE LESSENING OF OUR INDEPENDENCE
THROUGH SEEKING AID...THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE STAND WOULD BE
TO ASK FOR LOANS." SEVERAL EDITORIALS REPEATED GREEK
MORAL REFRAIN THAT US CONTINUES TO COUNSEL
IDENTICAL TREATMENT TO "VIOLATOR AS TO VICTIM."
KUBISCH

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